

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding the release of Vietnamese human rights activist Father Nguyen Ly, who spent more than 15 years in prison for protesting Vietnam's communist regime:

"I am extremely pleased by Vietnam's decision to release Father Ly on humanitarian grounds. Father Ly suffered multiple strokes while in prison last year and is reportedly in poor health. Thankfully, he will now be able to seek the medical care he needs in the company of his friends and family.

"I have contacted the State Department to find out whether any conditions were placed on Father Ly's release. Unfortunately, only time will tell whether Vietnam intends to leave Father Ly alone and release other activists who remain in prison. In the meantime, the U.S. and international communities must continue to pressure Vietnam on its abysmal human rights record. That is the only way to ensure President Triet's government is adhering to international human rights standards and the rule of law."

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